

VZCZCXRO0539  
OO RUEHBI RUEHLMC  
DE RUEHLM #0592 1091255  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 191255Z APR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5887  
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0344  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0043  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 7022  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 5107  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3679  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0865  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 3759  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1060  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2840  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 7597  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 5298  
RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY 0184  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1971  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000592

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS  
MCC FOR S GROFF, D NASSIRY, E BURKE AND F REID

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/19/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [MOPS](#) [CE](#)  
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: AIR FORCE HITS LTTE POSITIONS IN JAFFNA  
AND ON FORWARD DEFENSE LINE

Classified By: DCM James R. Moore for reasons 1.4(b,d).

11. (SBU) The local wire service reported April 19 that the Sri Lanka Air Force bombed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gun positions in Palai (in the Jaffna peninsula, near the Forward Defense Line, or FDL) and in Mullaitivu in the East. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission also reported the raids on Mullaitivu, adding that at approximately 10:30 am the Air Force (SLAF) attacked LTTE "hideouts" in Muhamalai, on the FDL. The SLAF spokesman, Group Captain Ajantha De Silva, acknowledged the aerial bombings, but said no casualty assessment was available. Perhaps anticipating concern over aerial bombing in heavily populated areas along the FDL, De Silva stated that the Air Force engaged in precision bombing, successfully hitting all three of their targets.

12. (C) COMMENT: Attacks along the FDL could be an early indication of a probing attack by the military from their positions in the Jaffna peninsula into Tiger-controlled territory. The Army (SLA) has an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 soldiers in the Jaffna peninsula, with an unknown number massed along the southern border of LTTE-controlled territory in the Vanni as well. SLA deep penetration units have been probing the southern portion of Tiger-controlled areas along the Mannar-Vavuniya road for months. Previous bombing raids reported in recent days to the east of the de facto LTTE capital Kilinochchi may have been attempts to eliminate the LTTE's nascent air force.

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